

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by Bradley, et al. (US Pat. No. 6,315,181); Claims 2, 3, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bradley, et al in view of Schatzler (US Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0076312); Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Bradley, et al. or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Bradley in view of Monroig (US Pat. No. 6,413,033); Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bradley, et al in view of Reimer (US Pat. No. 5,346,355); and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bradley, et al in view of Reimer.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 8; thus, Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11-12 are pending, of which Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time on February 22 to discuss the present Office Action and, in particular, the Bradley et al. reference. Based on that discussion, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated herein and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims for the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, for instance, is patentable over Bradley et al. For instance, Claim 1, as amended recites a moveable stowage assembly for a fire truck comprising: a longitudinal member disposed on a top surface of the firetruck configured for moving a stowed ladder; attachment means for connecting the stowed ladder to the longitudinal member, the attachment means being adapted to travel along the longitudinal member; first powered means defining a powered, endless closed loop for moving the attachment means between a stowed position and an access position; a base member secured pivotally to the top surface of the firetruck, the longitudinal member being moveable over the base member by second powered means for moving the longitudinal member between a stowed position and an access position; means for releaseably

securing the longitudinal member in the stowed position; first stop means to hold the longitudinal member in an access position on the base member; third powered means defining a linear hydraulic pivot for pivotally moving the base member between stowed position and an access position; and second stop means for holding the base member in the access position. Applicant respectfully submits that Bradley does not include each and every element of Claim 1.

As discussed with the Examiner, Bradley is generally directed to loading and unloading a ladder on a vehicle, which is accessed from the ground. As shown in Figure 2 of Bradley, a user loads the ladder L and pushes on carriage 30 until ladder grips 36 engage and carriage 30 moves along arms 28. The user then rotates a handle 92 to rotate pawls 80 and to rotate assembly 14 as shown in a final position in Figure 6. Bradley, therefore, is completely different from the invention of Claim 1 in that it requires physical manipulation by the user at ground level. Further, Bradley at least fails to teach a powered closed loop as recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, patentably defines over the references of record and Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejections of Claim 1 and allowance of Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-6.

Applicant further respectfully submits that Claim 8, as amended, is patentable over Bradley. Claim 8 recites a moveable stowage assembly for stowing and accessing emergency equipment on top of an emergency vehicle, the moveable stowage assembly comprising a movable member configured for moveably holding the emergency equipment; a base member pivotally attached to a the top of the emergency vehicle, the movable member further configured to traverse the base member to and from a stowed position; an attachment moveably disposed between the movable member and the emergency equipment, the attachment configured to traverse the movable member with the emergency equipment between the stowed position and an access position; a linear, hydraulic actuator attached between the top of the emergency vehicle and the base member, the actuator configured for pivoting the base member in a downward direction away from the top to the

access position to access the emergency equipment; and a powered endless closed loop configured to drive the attachment. Applicant respectfully submits that Bradley fails to suggest each and every element of Claim 8.

As noted above and discussed with the Examiner, Bradley does not teach a powered closed loop. Additionally, Bradley is directed to solving an entirely different problem, which requires manual manipulation of a ladder relative to a vehicle at ground level. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 8 is not anticipated by Bradley and respectfully requests removal of the rejection to Claim 8 and the allowance of Claim 8 and its dependent claims 9 and 11-12.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action and places the Application in complete condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions upon consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



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